



## RFP No: 3761

INVITATION: Sealed proposals, subject to the attached conditions, will be received at this office until June 26, 2014 @ 3:00 p.m. Central Time for the acquisition of the products/services described below for Information Technology Services/University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Microsoft Premier Support Services For The State of Mississippi

NOTE: THIS RFP CONTAINS MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS TO WHICH NO EXCEPTION MAY BE TAKEN. SEE SECTION VII, ITEM 2, FOR DETAILS.

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**The Vendor must submit proposals and direct inquiries to:**

Curtis Ritchey  
Technology Consultant  
Information Technology Services  
3771 Eastwood Drive  
Jackson, MS 39211  
(601) 432-8177  
Curtis.Ritchey@its.ms.gov

To prevent opening by unauthorized individuals, all copies of the proposal must be sealed in the package. The following must be clearly typed on a label affixed to the package in a clearly visible location:

PROPOSAL, SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO  
RFP NO. 3761  
due June 26, 2014 @ 3:00 p.m.,  
ATTENTION: Curtis Ritchey

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**Craig P. Orgeron, Ph.D.**  
**Executive Director, ITS**

### ITS RFP Response Checklist

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RFP Response Checklist: These items should be included in your response to RFP No. 3761.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1) One clearly marked original response and four (4) identical copy/copies of the complete proposal. Label the front and spine of the three-ring loose-leaf binder with the Vendor name and RFP number. Include the items listed below inside the binder. Please DO NOT include a copy of the RFP in the binder.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2) *Submission Cover Sheet*, signed and dated. (Section I)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3) *Proposal Bond*, if applicable (Section I)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4) *Proposal Exception Summary*, if applicable (Section V)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5) Vendor response to *RFP Questionnaire* (Section VI)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6) Point-by-point response to *Technical Specifications* (Section VII)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7) Vendor response to *Cost Information Submission* (Section VIII)

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## SECTION I

### SUBMISSION COVER SHEET & CONFIGURATION SUMMARY

Provide the following information regarding the person responsible for the completion of your proposal. This person should also be the person the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services, **(ITS)**, should contact for questions and/or clarifications.

Name	_____	Phone #	_____
Address	_____	Fax #	_____
		E-mail	_____

Subject to acceptance by **ITS**, the Vendor acknowledges that by submitting a proposal AND signing in the space indicated below, the Vendor is contractually obligated to comply with all items in this Request for Proposal (RFP), including the Standard Contract in Exhibit A if included herein, except those listed as exceptions on the Proposal Exception Summary Form. If no *Proposal Exception Summary Form* is included, the Vendor is indicating that he takes no exceptions. This acknowledgement also contractually obligates any and all subcontractors that may be proposed. Vendors who sign below may not later take exception to any point during contract negotiations. The Vendor further certifies that the company represented here is an authorized dealer in good standing of the products/services included in this proposal.

**Original signature** of Officer in Bind of Company/Date

Name (typed or printed)

## Title

Company name

Physical address

## State of Incorporation

## CONFIGURATION SUMMARY

The Vendor must provide a summary of the main components of products/services offered in this proposal using 100 words or less.

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## **PROPOSAL BONDS**

A Proposal Bond is not required for this procurement.

## **SECTION II**

### **PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

The objective of the Proposal Submission Requirements section is to provide Vendors with the information required to submit a response to this Request for Proposal (RFP). A Vendor who has responded to previous RFPs issued by **ITS** should not assume that the requirements are the same, as changes may have been made.

1. Failure to follow any instruction within this RFP may, at the State's sole discretion, result in the disqualification of the Vendor's proposal.
2. The State has no obligation to locate or acknowledge any information in the Vendor's proposal that is not presented under the appropriate outline according to these instructions and in the proper location.
3. The Vendor's proposal must be received, in writing, by the office of **ITS** by the date and time specified. ITS is not responsible for any delays in delivery or expenses for the development or delivery of proposals. Any proposal received after proposal opening time will be returned unopened. Any proposal received with insufficient postage will be returned unopened.
4. Proposals or alterations by fax, e-mail, or phone will not be accepted.
5. Original signatures are required on one copy of the Submission Cover Sheet and Configuration Summary, and the Vendor's original submission must be clearly identified as the original. The Vendor's original proposal must include the Proposal Bond, (if explicitly required in Section IV).
6. **ITS** reserves the right to reject any proposals, including those with exceptions, prior to and at any time during negotiations.
7. **ITS** reserves the right to waive any defect or irregularity in any proposal procedure.
8. The Vendor may intersperse their response following each RFP specification but must not otherwise alter or rekey any of the original text of this RFP. If the State determines that the Vendor has altered any language in the original RFP, the State may, in its sole discretion, disqualify the Vendor from further consideration. The RFP issued by **ITS** is the official version and will supersede any conflicting RFP language submitted by the Vendor.
9. The Vendor must conform to the following standards in the preparation of the Vendor's proposal:
  - 9.1 The Vendor is required to submit one clearly marked original response and four (4) identical copy/copies of the complete proposal, including all sections and exhibits, in three-ring binders.
  - 9.2 To prevent opening by unauthorized individuals, all copies of the proposal must be sealed in the package. A label containing the information on the

RFP cover page must be clearly typed and affixed to the package in a clearly visible location.

- 9.3 Number each page of the proposal.
  - 9.4 Respond to the sections and exhibits in the same order as this RFP.
  - 9.5 Label and tab the responses to each section and exhibit, using the corresponding headings from the RFP.
  - 9.6 If the Vendor does not agree with any item in any section, then the Vendor must list the item on the *Proposal Exception Summary Form*. (See Section V for additional instructions regarding Vendor exceptions.)
  - 9.7 Occasionally, an outline point in an attachment requests information which is not applicable to the products/services proposed. If the Vendor is certain the point does not apply to the given RFP, the Vendor should respond with "NOT APPLICABLE."
  - 9.8 Where an outline point asks a question or requests information, the Vendor must respond with the specific answer or information requested.
  - 9.9 When an outline point/attachment is a statement provided for the Vendor's information only, the Vendor need only read that point. The Vendor acknowledges having read and accepting, or taking exception to, all sections by signing the *Submission Cover Sheet* and providing a *Proposal Exception Summary Form*.
  - 9.10 Where a minimum requirement has been identified, respond by stating the item (e.g., device name/model number, guaranteed response time) proposed and how it will meet the specifications.
  - 9.11 The Vendor must fully respond to each requirement within the *Technical Specifications* by fully describing the manner and degree by which the proposal meets or exceeds said requirements.
10. It is the responsibility of the Vendor to clearly identify all costs associated with any item or series of items in this RFP. The Vendor must include and complete all parts of the cost proposal in a clear and accurate manner. **Omissions, errors, misrepresentations, or inadequate details in the Vendor's cost proposal may be grounds for rejection of the Vendor's proposal. Costs that are not clearly identified will be borne by the Vendor.** The Vendor must complete the *Cost Information Submission* in this RFP, which outlines the minimum requirements for providing cost information. The Vendor should supply supporting details as described in the *Cost Information Submission*.
11. **ITS** reserves the right to request additional information or clarification of a Vendor's proposal. The Vendor's cooperation during the evaluation process in providing **ITS** staff with adequate responses to requests for clarification will be considered a factor in the evaluation of the Vendor's overall responsiveness. Lack of such cooperation or failure to

provide the information in the manner required may, at the State's discretion, result in the disqualification of the Vendor's proposal.

12. Unsolicited clarifications and updates submitted after the deadline for proposals will be accepted or rejected at the sole discretion of **ITS**.
13. Unsolicited clarifications in the evaluation and selection of lowest and best proposal will be considered only if all the following conditions are met:
  - 13.1 A clarification to a proposal that includes a newly announced product line or service with equal or additional capability to be provided at or less than the proposed price will be considered.
  - 13.2 Information provided must be in effect nationally and have been formally and publicly announced through a news medium that the Vendor normally uses to convey customer information.
  - 13.3 Clarifications must be received early enough in the evaluation process to allow adequate time for re-evaluation.
  - 13.4 The Vendor must follow procedures outlined herein for submitting updates and clarifications.
  - 13.5 The Vendor must submit a statement outlining the circumstances for the clarification.
  - 13.6 The Vendor must submit one clearly marked original and four (4) copies of the clarification.
  - 13.7 The Vendor must be specific about which part of the original proposal is being changed by the clarification (i.e., must include exact RFP reference to section and outline point).
14. **Communications with State**

From the issue date of this RFP until a Vendor is selected and the selection is announced, responding Vendors or their representatives may not communicate, either orally or in writing regarding this RFP with any statewide elected official, state officer or employee, member of the legislature or legislative employee except as noted herein. To ensure equal treatment for each responding Vendor, all questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to the State's contact person for the selection process, and not later than the last date for accepting responding Vendor questions provided in this RFP. All such questions will be answered officially by the State in writing. All such questions and answers will become addenda to this RFP, and they will be posted to the **ITS** web site. Vendors failing to comply with this requirement will be subject to disqualification.

  - 14.1 The State's contact person for the selection process is: Curtis Ritchey, Technology Consultant, 3771 Eastwood Drive, Jackson, MS 39211, 601-432-8177, [Curtis.Ritchey@its.ms.gov](mailto:Curtis.Ritchey@its.ms.gov).



- 14.2 Vendor may consult with State representatives as designated by the State's contact person identified in 14.1 above in response to State-initiated inquiries. Vendor may consult with State representatives during scheduled oral presentations and demonstrations excluding site visits.

### **SECTION III VENDOR INFORMATION**

The objective of the Vendor Information section of this RFP is to provide Vendors with information required to respond to the RFP successfully.

1. **Interchangeable Designations**

The terms "Vendor" and "Contractor" are referenced throughout this RFP. Generally, references to the "Vendor" are used in conjunction with the proposing organization and procurement process leading up to the final RFP selection and award. The term "Contractor" denotes the role assumed, post-award, by the winning Vendor. Additionally, the terms "State of Mississippi," "State" or "ITS" may be used interchangeably throughout this RFP to denote the political entity issuing the RFP and requesting responses from Vendors throughout these specifications. References to a specific agency, institution or other political entity represent the client or customer on whose behalf **ITS** is issuing the RFP.

2. **Vendor's Responsibility to Examine RFP**

Vendors must examine all documents, forms, specifications, standard provisions, and instructions.

3. **Proposal as Property of State**

All written proposal material becomes the property of the State of Mississippi.

4. **Written Amendment to RFP**

Any interpretation of an **ITS** RFP will be made by written amendment only. The State will not be responsible for any other explanation of this RFP. A copy of any amendment will be posted on the **ITS** website, together with the associated RFP specification. Vendors are required to check the **ITS** website periodically for RFP amendments before the proposal opening date at:

[http://www.its.ms.gov/Procurement/Pages/RFPS\\_Awaiting.aspx](http://www.its.ms.gov/Procurement/Pages/RFPS_Awaiting.aspx)

Any and all amendments will be posted no later than noon, seven days prior to the proposal opening date listed on the cover page of this RFP. If you are unable to access the **ITS** website, you may contact the **ITS** technology consultant listed on page one of this RFP and request a copy.

5. **Oral Communications Not Binding**

Only transactions which are in writing from **ITS** may be considered official. No negotiations, decisions, or actions shall be executed by any Vendor as a result of any discussions with any State employee.

6. **Vendor's Responsibility for Delivery**

Vendors must ensure, through reasonable and sufficient follow-up, proper compliance with, and fulfillment of all schedules and deliverables specified within the body of this RFP. The State will not be responsible for the failure of any delivery medium for submission of information to or from the Vendor, including but not limited to, public and private carriers, U.S. mail, Internet Service Providers, facsimile, or e-mail.

7. **Evaluation Criteria**

The State's intent in issuing this RFP is to award a contract to the lowest and best responsive Vendor who meets specifications, considering price and other factors. The Vendor's past performance, cooperation, and ability to provide service and training are general factors that will be weighed in the selection process. More specific information concerning evaluation criteria is presented in *Technical Specifications*.

8. **Multiple Awards**

**ITS** reserves the right to make multiple awards.

9. **Right to Award in Whole or Part**

**ITS** reserves the right to approve an award by individual items or in total, whichever is deemed to be in the best interest of the State of Mississippi.

10. **Right to Use Proposals in Future Projects**

The State reserves the right to evaluate the awarded proposal from this RFP, including all products and services proposed therein, along with the resulting contractual terms, for possible use in future projects if (a) it is deemed to be in the best interest of the State to do so; and (b) the Vendor is willing to extend a cost less than or equal to that specified in the awarded proposal and resulting contract. A decision concerning the utilization of a Vendor's proposal for future projects is solely at the discretion of the State and requires the agreement of the proposing Vendor. The State's decision to reuse an awarded proposal will be based upon such criteria as: (1) the customer's business requirements; (2) elapsed time since the award of the original project; and/or (3) research on changes in the Vendor, market, and technical environments since the initial award.

11. **Price Changes During Award or Renewal Period**

A price increase will not be accepted during the award period or the renewal period, unless stipulated in the contract. However, the State will always take advantage of price decreases.

12. **Right to Request Information**

The State reserves the right to request information relative to a Vendor's references and financial status and to visit a Vendor's facilities during normal working hours. The State also reserves the right to request a current financial statement, prepared and certified by an independent auditing firm, and reserves the right to require that Vendors document their financial ability to provide the products and services proposed up to the total dollar amount of the Vendor's cost proposal. The State reserves the right to request information about the Vendor from any previous customer of the Vendor of whom the State is aware, even if that customer is not included in the Vendor's list of references.

13. **Vendor Personnel**

For RFPs including professional services specifications, the Vendor will be required to provide and/or certify the following for each individual included in the Vendor's proposal:

- 13.1 A direct telephone number at which the individual may be contacted for a telephone interview. The State will pay toll charges in the continental United States. The Vendor must arrange a toll-free number for all other calls.

- 13.2 That, if onsite interviews are required, the individual can be at the specified location in Mississippi within the timeframe specified. All costs associated with onsite interviews will be the responsibility of the Vendor.
- 13.3 That the individual is proficient in spoken and written English;
- 13.4 That the individual is a U.S. citizen or that the individual meets and will maintain employment eligibility requirements in compliance with all INS regulations. The Vendor must provide evidence of identification and employment eligibility prior to the award of a contract that includes any personnel who are not U. S. citizens.
- 13.5 That the personnel assigned to a project will remain a part of the project throughout the duration of the contract as long as the personnel are employed by the Vendor, unless replaced by the Vendor at the request of the State. This requirement includes the responsibility for ensuring all non-citizens maintain current INS eligibility throughout the duration of the contract.

**14. Vendor Imposed Constraints**

The Vendor must specifically document what limitations, if any, exist in working with any other Contractor acting in the capacity of the State's business partner, subcontractor or agent who may be managing any present or future projects; performing quality assurance; integrating the Vendor's software; and/or providing web-hosting, hardware, networking or other processing services on the State's behalf. The project relationship may be based on roles as either equal peers; supervisory – subordinate; or subordinate – supervisory, as determined by the State. The State recognizes that the Vendor may have trade secrets, intellectual property and/or business relationships that may be subject to its corporate policies or agreements. The State must understand these issues in order to decide to what degree they may impact the State's ability to conduct business for this project. These considerations will be incorporated accordingly into the proposal evaluation and selection process. The understanding reached between the Vendor and the State with regard to this business relationship precludes the Vendor from imposing any subsequent limitations of this type in future project undertakings by the State.

**15. Best and Final Offer**

The State reserves the right to solicit Best and Final Offers (BAFOs) from Vendors, principally in situations in which proposal costs eclipse available funding or the State believes none of the competing proposals presents a Best Value (lowest and best proposal) opportunity. Because of the time and expense incurred by both the Vendor community and the State, BAFOs are not routinely conducted. Vendors should offer their best pricing with the initial solicitation. Situations warranting solicitation of a BAFO will be considered an exceptional practice for any procurement. Vendors that remain in a competitive range within an evaluation may be requested to tender Best and Final Offers, at the sole discretion of the State. All such Vendors will be provided an equal opportunity to respond with a Best and Final Offer under a procedure to be defined by the State that encompasses the specific, refined needs of a project, as part of the BAFO solicitation. The State may re-evaluate and amend the original project specifications should it be deemed necessary in order to improve the opportunity for

attaining Best Value scenarios from among the remaining competing Vendors. All BAFO proceedings will be uniformly conducted, in writing and subject to solicitation by the State and receipt from the Vendors under a precise schedule.

**16. Restriction on Advertising**

The Vendor must receive written approval from the State before advertising or referencing the award of the contract or the services being provided. The Vendor must agree not to refer to awards in commercial advertising in such a manner as to state or imply that the firm or its services are endorsed or preferred by the State of Mississippi.

**17. Rights Reserved to Use Existing Product Contracts**

The State reserves the right on turnkey projects to secure certain products from other existing **ITS** contracts if it is in its best interest to do so. If this option is exercised, then the awarded Vendor must be willing to integrate the acquisition and implementation of such products within the schedule and system under contract.

**18. Additional Information to be Included**

In addition to answering each specification within this RFP, the Vendor must include complete product/service information, including product pictorials and technical/descriptive literature relative to any product/service offered with the proposal. Information submitted must be sufficiently detailed to substantiate that the products/services offered meet or exceed specifications.

**19. Valid Contract Required to Begin Work**

The successful Vendor should not commence any billable work until a valid contract has been executed. Any work done by the successful Vendor prior to the execution of the contract is done at the Vendor's sole risk. The State is under no obligation to pay for work done prior to the execution of a contract.

## **SECTION IV LEGAL AND CONTRACTUAL INFORMATION**

The objective of the *Legal and Contractual Information* section is to provide Vendors with information required to complete a contract or agreement with **ITS** successfully.

1. **Acknowledgment Precludes Later Exception**

By signing the *Submission Cover Sheet*, the Vendor is contractually obligated to comply with all items in this RFP, including the *Standard Contract* in Exhibit A if included herein, except those specifically listed as exceptions on the *Proposal Exception Summary Form*. If no *Proposal Exception Summary Form* is included, the Vendor is indicating that he takes no exceptions. Vendors who respond to this RFP by signing the *Submission Cover Sheet* may not later take exception to any item in the RFP during contract negotiations. This acknowledgement also contractually obligates any and all subcontractors that may be proposed. No exceptions by subcontractors or separate terms and conditions will be entertained after the fact.

2. **Failure to Respond as Prescribed**

Failure to respond as described in Section II: *Proposal Submission Requirements* to any item in the sections and exhibits of this RFP, including the *Standard Contract* attached as Exhibit A, if applicable, shall contractually obligate the Vendor to comply with that item.

3. **Contract Documents**

**ITS** will be responsible for all document creation and editorial control over all contractual documentation related to each procurement project. The following documents will normally be included in all contracts between **ITS** and the Vendor:

- 3.1 The Proposal Exception Summary Form as accepted by **ITS**;
- 3.2 Contracts which have been signed by the Vendor and **ITS**;
- 3.3 **ITS'** Request for Proposal, including all addenda;
- 3.4 Official written correspondence from **ITS** to the Vendor;
- 3.5 Official written correspondence from the Vendor to **ITS** when clarifying the Vendor's proposal; and
- 3.6 The Vendor's proposal response to the **ITS** RFP.

4. **Order of Precedence**

When a conflict arises regarding contract intent due to conflicting statements in documents included in the contract, the order of precedence of each document is as listed above unless modification of order is negotiated and agreed upon by both **ITS** and the winning Vendor.

5. **Additional Contract Provisions**

The contract will also include such additional provisions, which are not inconsistent or incompatible with the material terms of this RFP, as may be agreed upon by the parties. All of the foregoing shall be in such form and substance as prescribed by the State.

6. **Contracting Agent by Law**

The Executive Director of **ITS** is, by law, the purchasing and contracting agent for the State of Mississippi in the negotiation and execution of all contracts for the acquisition of computer and telecommunications equipment, systems, software, and services (Section 25-53-1, et seq., of the Mississippi Code Annotated). **ITS** is issuing this RFP on behalf of the procuring agency or institution. **ITS** and the procuring agency or institution are sometimes collectively referred to within this RFP as "State."

7. **Mandatory Legal Provisions**

- 7.1 The State of Mississippi is self-insured; all requirements for the purchase of casualty or liability insurance are deleted.
- 7.2 Any provisions disclaiming implied warranties shall be null and void. See Mississippi Code Annotated Sections 11-7-18 and 75-2-719(4). The Vendor shall not disclaim the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose.
- 7.3 The Vendor shall have no limitation on liability for claims related to the following items:
  - 7.3.1 Infringement issues;
  - 7.3.2 Bodily injury;
  - 7.3.3 Death;
  - 7.3.4 Physical damage to tangible personal and/or real property; and/or
  - 7.3.5 The intentional and willful misconduct or negligent acts of the Vendor and/or Vendor's employees or subcontractors.
- 7.4 All requirements that the State pay interest (other than in connection with lease-purchase contracts not exceeding five years) are deleted.
- 7.5 Any contract negotiated under this RFP will be governed by and construed according to the laws of the State of Mississippi. Venue for the resolution of any dispute shall be Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi.
- 7.6 Any contract negotiated under this RFP is cancelable in the event the funding authority does not appropriate funds. Notice requirements to Vendor cannot exceed sixty (60) days.

- 7.7 The State of Mississippi does not waive its sovereign immunities or defenses as provided by law by entering into this contract with the Vendor, Vendor agents, subcontractors, or assignees.
- 7.8 The State will deliver payments to the Vendor within forty-five (45) days after receipt of invoice and receipt, inspection, and approval of Vendor's products/services. No late charges will exceed 1.5% per month on any unpaid balance from the expiration of said period until payment is delivered. See Section 31-7-305 of the Mississippi Code Annotated. Seller understands and agrees that Purchaser is exempt from the payment of taxes.
- 7.9 The State shall not pay any attorney's fees, prejudgment interest or the cost of legal action to or for the Vendor.
8. **Approved Contract**
- 8.1 Award of Contract - A contract is considered to be awarded to a proposer once the proposer's offering has been approved as lowest and best proposal through:
- 8.1.1 Written notification made to proposers on **ITS** letterhead, or
- 8.1.2 Notification posted to the **ITS** website for the project, or
- 8.1.3 CP-1 authorization executed for the project, or
- 8.1.4 The **ITS** Board's approval of same during an open session of the Board.
- 8.2 **ITS** statute specifies whether **ITS** Director approval or **ITS** Board approval is applicable for a given project, depending on the total lifecycle cost of the contract.
- 8.3 A contract is not deemed final until five (5) working days after either the award of contract or post procurement review, as stipulated in the **ITS** Protest Procedure and Policy. In the event of a valid protest, the State may, at its sole discretion, continue the procurement or stay the procurement in accordance with the **ITS** Protest Procedure and Policy. If the procurement is stayed, the contract is not deemed final until the protest is resolved.
9. **Contract Validity**  
All contracts are valid only if signed by the Executive Director of **ITS**.
10. **Order of Contract Execution**  
Vendors will be required to sign contracts and to initial all contract changes before the Executive Director of **ITS** signs.



**11. Availability of Funds**

All contracts are subject to availability of funds of the acquiring State entity and are contingent upon receipt by the winning Vendor of a purchase order from the acquiring State entity.

**12. CP-1 Requirement**

All purchase orders issued for goods and services acquired from the awarded Vendor under this RFP must be encoded by the Customer agency with a CP-1 approval number assigned by **ITS**. This requirement does not apply to acquisitions that by policy have been delegated to State entities.

**13. Requirement for Electronic Payment and Invoicing**

13.1 Payments to the awarded Vendor for all goods and services acquired under this RFP by state agencies that make payments through the Statewide Automated Accounting System ("SAAS") or a replacement system for SAAS, will be made electronically, via deposit to the bank account of the Vendor's choice. The awarded Vendor must enroll and be activated in PayMode™, the State's current vehicle for sending and receiving electronic payments, prior to receiving any payments from state agencies. There is no charge for a Vendor to enroll or receive payments via PayMode. For additional information on PayMode, including registration instructions, Vendors should visit the following website: <http://portal.paymode.com/ms/>. Vendors may also request assistance from the Mississippi Management and Reporting System (MMRS) Call Center regarding PayMode registration by contacting [mash@dfa.state.ms.us](mailto:mash@dfa.state.ms.us).

13.2 For state agencies that make payments through SAAS, the awarded Vendor is required to submit electronically all invoices for goods and services acquired under this RFP, along with appropriate supporting documentation, as directed by the State. Should the requirement for electronic invoicing be implemented during the term of the project contract, the State will work with the Vendor to determine a reasonable timeframe for initiating electronic invoicing.

13.3 Items 13.1 and 13.2 only apply to state agencies that make payments through SAAS. Payments and invoices for all other entities will conform to their standard methods of payment to contractors.

**14. Time For Negotiations**

14.1 All contractual issues must be successfully negotiated within fifteen (15) working days from the Vendor's initial receipt of the project contract from **ITS**, unless **ITS** consents to extend the period. Failure to complete negotiations within the stated time period constitutes grounds for rejection of the Vendor's response to this RFP. **ITS** may withdraw the proposal award and begin negotiations with the next ranked Vendor immediately or pursue any other option.

14.2 Negotiations shall be limited to items to which the Vendor has noted as

exceptions on their Proposal Exception Summary Form, as well as any new items that the State may require. All contract changes requested by the Vendor related to such exceptions noted in Vendor's proposal shall be submitted three (3) working days prior to scheduled negotiations, unless **ITS** consents to a different period.

**15. Prime Contractor**

The selected Vendor will be designated the prime contractor in the proposal, and as such, shall be solely responsible for all products/services offered in the proposal and for the fulfillment of the contract with the State.

**16. Sole Point of Contact**

**ITS** will consider the selected Vendor to be the sole point of contact with regard to contractual matters, including payment of any and all charges resulting from the contract.

16.1 The Vendor must acknowledge and agree that in matters of proposals, clarifications, negotiations, contracts and resolution of issues and/or disputes, the Vendor represents all contractors, third parties and/or subcontractors the Vendor has assembled for this project. The Vendor's commitments are binding on all such parties and consequently the State is only required to negotiate with the Vendor.

16.2 Furthermore, the Vendor acknowledges and agrees to pass all rights and/or services related to all general consulting, services leasing, software licensing, warranties, hardware maintenance and/or software support to the State from any contractor, third party or subcontractor without the State having to negotiate separately or individually with any such parties for these terms or conditions.

16.3 Should a proposing Vendor wish to assign payment of any or all charges resulting from this contract to a third party, Vendor must disclose that fact in his/her proposal, along with the third party's name, address, nature of business, and relationship to the proposing Vendor, the reason for and purpose of the assignment, and all conditions of the assignment, including but not limited to a copy of an assignment document to be executed by the State, the Vendor, and the third party. Such assignments will be accepted or rejected at the sole discretion of the State. Vendor must clearly and definitively state in his/her proposal whether the proposal is contingent upon the requested assignment of payments. Whenever any assignment of payment is requested, the proposal, contract, and assignment document must include language specifically guaranteeing that the proposing Vendor is solely and fully liable and responsible for the performance of its obligations under the subject contract. No assignment of payment will be considered at the time of purchase unless such assignment was fully disclosed in the Vendor's proposal and subsequently accepted by the State.

**17. ITS Approval of Subcontractor Required**

Unless provided in the contract, the Vendor shall not contract with any other party for furnishing any of the contracted work or services without the consent, guidance, and

written approval of the State. **ITS** reserves the right of refusal and the right to request replacement of a subcontractor due to unacceptable work or conduct. This provision should not be interpreted as requiring the approval of individual contracts of employment between the Vendor and personnel assigned for services under the contract.

**18. Inclusion of Subcontract Agreements**

Copies of any agreements to be executed between the Vendor and any subcontractors must be included in the Vendor's proposal.

**19. Negotiations with Subcontractor**

In order to protect the State's interest, **ITS** reserves the right to attempt to resolve the contractual disagreements that may arise between the Vendor and its subcontractor after award of the contract.

**20. References to Vendor to Include Subcontractor**

All references in the RFP to "Vendor" shall be construed to encompass both the Vendor and its subcontractors.

**21. Outstanding Vendor Obligations**

21.1 Any Vendor who presently owes the State of Mississippi money pursuant to any contract for which **ITS** is the contracting agent and who has received written notification from **ITS** regarding the monies owed, must submit, with the proposal, a certified check in the amount due and owing in order for the proposal in response to this RFP to be considered. For a Vendor currently in bankruptcy as of the RFP submission date, this requirement is met, if and only if, **ITS** has an active petition before the appropriate bankruptcy court for recovery of the full dollar amount presently owed to the State of Mississippi by that Vendor. If the Vendor has emerged from bankruptcy by the RFP submission date, the Vendor must pay in full any amount due and owing to the State, as directed in the court-approved reorganization plan, prior to any proposal being considered.

21.2 Any Vendor who is presently in default on existing contracts for which **ITS** is the contracting agent, or who otherwise is delinquent in the performance of any such contracted obligations, is in the sole judgment of the State required to make arrangement for fulfilling outstanding obligations to the satisfaction of the State in order for the proposal to be considered.

21.3 The State, at its sole discretion, may reject the proposal of a Vendor with any significant outstanding financial or other obligations to the State or who is in bankruptcy at the time of proposal submission.

**22. Equipment Condition**

For all RFPs requiring equipment, the Vendor must furnish only new equipment in response to **ITS** specifications, unless an explicit requirement for used equipment is otherwise specified.

23. **Delivery Intervals**

The Vendor's proposal must specify, in the *Cost Information Submission* and in response to any specific instructions in the *Technical Specifications*, delivery and installation intervals after receipt of order.

24. **Pricing Guarantee**

The Vendor must explicitly state, in the *Cost Information Submission* and in response to any specific instructions in the *Technical Specifications*, how long the proposal will remain valid. Unless stated to the contrary in the *Technical Specifications*, pricing must be guaranteed for a minimum of ninety (90) days.

25. **Shipping Charges**

For all RFPs requiring shipment of any product or component, all products must be delivered FOB destination to any location within the geographic boundaries of the State with all transportation charges prepaid and included in the RFP proposal or LOC quotation. Destination is the point of use.

26. **Amortization Schedule**

For all RFPs requiring equipment, contracts involving the payment of interest must include an amortization schedule clearly documenting the amount of interest payable over the term of the contract.

27. **Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance for Web Development and Portal Related Services**

All Web and Portal development work must be designed and implemented in compliance with the Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Standards associated with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act and with the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) of the W3C.

28. **Ownership of Developed Software**

28.1 When specifications require the Vendor to develop software for the State, the Vendor must acknowledge and agree that the State is the sole owner of such developed software with exclusive rights to use, alter, or distribute the software without restriction. This requirement applies to source code, object code, and documentation.

28.2 The State may be willing to grant the Vendor a nonexclusive license to use the State's software subject to devising acceptable terms and license fees. This requirement is a matter of State Law, and not negotiable.

29. **Ownership of Custom Tailored Software**

In installations where the Vendor's intellectual property is modified and custom-tailored to meet the needs of the State, the Vendor must offer the State an application license entitling the State to use, and/or alter the software without restriction. These requirements apply to source code, object code and documentation.

30. **Terms of Software License**

The Vendor acknowledges and agrees that the term of all software licenses provided to the State shall be perpetual unless stated otherwise in the Vendor's proposal.

31. **The State is Licensee of Record**

The Vendor must not bypass the software contracting phase of a project by licensing project software intended for State use in its company name. Upon award of a project, the Vendor must ensure that the State is properly licensed for all software that is proposed for use in a project.

32. **Compliance with Enterprise Security Policy**

Any solution proposed in response to this RFP must be in compliance with the State of Mississippi's Enterprise Security Policy. The Enterprise Security Policy is based on industry-standard best practices, policy, and guidelines and covers the following topics: web servers, email, virus prevention, firewalls, data encryption, remote access, passwords, servers, physical access, traffic restrictions, wireless, laptop and mobile devices, disposal of hardware/media, and application assessment/certification. Given that information security is an evolving technology practice, the State reserves the right to introduce new policy during the term of the contract resulting from this RFP and require the Vendor to comply with same in the event the industry introduces more secure, robust solutions or practices that facilitate a more secure posture for the State of Mississippi.

The Enterprise Security Policy is available to third parties on a need-to-know basis. The Vendor may request individual sections of the Enterprise Security Policy or request the entire document.

Vendor must provide contact information (name, email address, phone number) to the State's contact person identified in Section II, Item 14.1 who will coordinate the secure delivery of the requested information

33. **Negotiating with Next-Ranked Vendor**

Should the State cease doing business with any Vendor selected via this RFP process, for any reason, the State reserves the right to initiate negotiations with the next ranked Vendor.

34. **Disclosure of Proposal Information**

Vendors should be aware that any information in a proposal may be subject to disclosure or reproduction under the Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983, defined in Section 25-61-1 et seq. of the Mississippi Code Annotated. All disclosures of proposal information will be made in compliance with the **ITS** Public Records Procedures established in accordance with the Mississippi Public Records Act. The **ITS** Public Records Procedures are available in Section 019-010 of the **ITS** Procurement Handbook, on the **ITS** Internet site at:

<http://dsitspe01.its.ms.gov/its/procman.nsf/f4ad43bd44ad9d8c86256daa0063e1f0/bb780b5a8360c3138625765d004e4aff?OpenDocument> or from **ITS** upon request.

As outlined in the Third Party Information section of the **ITS** Public Records Procedures, **ITS** will give written notice to any affected Vendor of a request to view or reproduce the Vendor's proposal or portion thereof. **ITS** will not, however, give such notice with respect to summary information prepared in connection with the State's review or evaluation of a Vendor's proposal, including, but not limited to, written presentations to

the **ITS** Board or other approving bodies, and/or similar written documentation prepared for the project file. In addition, **ITS** will not provide third-party notice for requests for any contract executed as a result of this RFP, with the exception of information contained in contract exhibits identified and labeled as confidential during the contract negotiation process. **ITS** will provide third-party notice of requests for any such confidential exhibits to allow Vendor the opportunity to protect the information by court order as outlined in the **ITS** Public Records Procedures.

Summary information and contract terms, as defined above, become the property of **ITS**, who has the right to reproduce or distribute this information without notification.

Vendors should further be aware that requests for disclosure of proposal and contract information are sometimes received by **ITS** significantly after the proposal opening date. **ITS** will notify the signatory "Officer in Bind of Company" provided in Section I of this RFP for Notification of Public Records Requests in the event information is requested that your company might wish to consider protecting as a trade secret or as confidential commercial or financial information. If the "Officer in Bind of Company" should not be used for notification of public records requests, Vendor should provide the alternative contact information in response to this RFP item.

**35. Risk Factors to be Assessed**

The State will assess risk factors that may initially exist within a given procurement and that may develop over the course of a procurement process as facts become known. The State, at its sole discretion, may employ the following mechanisms in mitigating these risks: proposal bonding, performance bonding, progress payment plan with retainage, inclusion of liquidated damages, and withholding payment for all portions of the products/services acquired until final acceptance. The Vendor must agree to incorporate any or all of the above terms and conditions into the customer agreement.

**36. Proposal Bond**

The Vendor is not required to include a proposal bond.

**37. Performance Bond/Irrevocable Bank Letter of Credit**

The Vendor is not required to include the price of a performance bond or irrevocable bank letter of credit with its RFP proposal.

**38. Responsibility for Behavior of Vendor Employees/Subcontractors**

The Vendor will be responsible for the behavior of all its employees and subcontractors while on the premises of any State agency or institution. Any Vendor employee or subcontractor acting in a manner determined by the administration of any State agency or institution to be detrimental, abusive, or offensive to any of the staff or student body of any State agency or institution will be asked to leave the premises and can be suspended from further work on the premises.

**39. Protests**

The Executive Director of **ITS** and/or the Board Members of **ITS** or their designees shall have the authority to resolve Vendor protests in connection with the selection for award of a contract. Copies of the protest procedures are available on the **ITS** Internet site - **ITS** Protest Procedure and Policy, Section 019-020, **ITS** Procurement Handbook at:

<http://dsitspe01.its.ms.gov/its/procman.nsf/f4ad43bd44ad9d8c86256daa0063e1f0/f227957c9c49a38a8625767900790c4e?OpenDocument> or from **ITS** upon request.

40. **Protest Bond**

Potential Vendors may protest any of the specifications of this RFP on the belief that the specification is unlawful, unduly restrictive, or unjustifiably restraining to competition. Any such protest must be in writing and submitted to the **ITS** Executive Director along with the appropriate protest bond within five (5) working days of the Official Release of the RFP, as defined in the **ITS** Protest Procedure and Policy. The outside of the envelope must be marked "Protest" and must specify RFP number 3761.

As a condition precedent to filing any protest related to this procurement, the Vendor must procure, submit to the **ITS** Executive Director with its written protest, and maintain in effect at all times during the course of the protest or appeal thereof, a protest bond in the full amount of the total estimated project lifecycle cost or \$250,000.00, whichever is less. The total estimated project lifecycle cost will be the amount used by **ITS** in the computation of cost points, as the low cost in the denominator of the cost evaluation formula. The bond shall be accompanied by a duly authenticated or certified document evidencing that the person executing the bond is a licensed Mississippi agent for the bonding company. This certified document shall identify the name and address of the person or entity holding the protest bond and shall identify a contact person to be notified in the event that the State is required to take action against the bond. The protest bond shall not be released to the protesting Vendor until the protest is finally resolved and the time for appealing said protest has expired. The protest bond shall be procured at the protesting Vendor's expense and be payable to the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services. Prior to approval of the protest bond, **ITS** reserves the right to review the protest bond and require the protesting Vendor to substitute an acceptable bond in such form as the State may reasonably require. The premiums on such bond shall be paid by the protesting Vendor. The State may claim against the protest bond as specified in Section 25-53-5 (n) of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended during the 1998 Mississippi legislative session, in addition to all other rights and remedies the State may have at law or in equity.

Should the written protest submitted by the Vendor fail to comply with the content requirements of **ITS'** protest procedure and policy, fail to be submitted within the prescribed time limits, or fail to have the appropriate protest bond accompany it, the protest will be summarily dismissed by the **ITS** Executive Director.

41. **Mississippi Employment Protection Act**

Effective July 1, 2008, Vendor acknowledges that if awarded, it will ensure its compliance with the Mississippi Employment Protection Act, Section 71-11-1, et seq. of the Mississippi Code Annotated (Supp2008), and will register and participate in the status verification system for all newly hired employees. The term "employee" as used herein means any person that is hired to perform work within the State of Mississippi. As used herein, "status verification system" means the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996 that is operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security, also known as the E-Verify Program, or any other successor electronic verification system replacing the E-Verify Program. Vendor will agree to

maintain records of such compliance and, upon request of the State, to provide a copy of each such verification to the State.

Vendor acknowledges and certifies that any person assigned to perform services hereunder meets the employment eligibility requirements of all immigration laws of the State of Mississippi.

Vendor acknowledges that violating the E-Verify Program (or successor thereto) requirements subjects Vendor to the following: (a) cancellation of any state or public contract and ineligibility for any state or public contract for up to three (3) years, with notice of such cancellation being made public, or (b) the loss of any license, permit, certification or other document granted to Vendor by an agency, department or governmental entity for the right to do business in Mississippi for up to one (1) year, or (c) both. Vendor would also be liable for any additional costs incurred by the State due to contract cancellation or loss of license or permit.



## SECTION V PROPOSAL EXCEPTIONS

Please return the *Proposal Exception Summary Form* at the end of this section with all exceptions to items in any Section of this RFP listed and clearly explained or state "No Exceptions Taken." If no *Proposal Exception Summary Form* is included, the Vendor is indicating that he takes no exceptions to any item in this RFP document.

1. Unless specifically disallowed on any specification herein, the Vendor may take exception to any point within this RFP, including a specification denoted with "shall" or "must," as long as the following are true:
  - 1.1 The specification is not a matter of State law;
  - 1.2 The proposal still meets the intent of the RFP;
  - 1.3 A *Proposal Exception Summary Form* is included with Vendor's proposal; and
  - 1.4 The exception is clearly explained, along with any alternative or substitution the Vendor proposes to address the intent of the specification, on the *Proposal Exception Summary Form*.
2. The Vendor has no liability to provide items to which an exception has been taken. **ITS** has no obligation to accept any exception. During the proposal evaluation and/or contract negotiation process, the Vendor and **ITS** will discuss each exception and take one of the following actions:
  - 2.1 The Vendor will withdraw the exception and meet the specification in the manner prescribed;
  - 2.2 **ITS** will determine that the exception neither poses significant risk to the project nor undermines the intent of the RFP and will accept the exception;
  - 2.3 **ITS** and the Vendor will agree on compromise language dealing with the exception and will insert same into the contract; or
  - 2.4 None of the above actions is possible, and **ITS** either disqualifies the Vendor's proposal or withdraws the award and proceeds to the next ranked Vendor.
3. Should **ITS** and the Vendor reach a successful agreement, **ITS** will sign adjacent to each exception which is being accepted or submit a formal written response to the *Proposal Exception Summary* responding to each of the Vendor's exceptions. The *Proposal Exception Summary*, with those exceptions approved by **ITS**, will become a part of any contract on acquisitions made under this RFP.
4. An exception will be accepted or rejected at the sole discretion of the State.
5. The State desires to award this RFP to a Vendor or Vendors with whom there is a high probability of establishing a mutually agreeable contract, substantially within the

standard terms and conditions of the State's RFP, including the *Standard Contract* in Exhibit A, if included herein. As such, Vendors whose proposals, in the sole opinion of the State, reflect a substantial number of material exceptions to this RFP, may place themselves at a comparative disadvantage in the evaluation process or risk disqualification of their proposals.

6. For Vendors who have successfully negotiated a contract with **ITS** in the past, **ITS** requests that, prior to taking any exceptions to this RFP, the individual(s) preparing this proposal first confer with other individuals who have previously submitted proposals to **ITS** or participated in contract negotiations with **ITS** on behalf of their company, to ensure the Vendor is consistent in the items to which it takes exception.

### PROPOSAL EXCEPTION SUMMARY FORM

List and clearly explain any exceptions, for all RFP Sections and Exhibits, in the table below.

ITS RFP Reference	Vendor Proposal Reference	Brief Explanation of Exception	ITS Acceptance (sign here only if accepted)
(Reference specific outline point to which exception is taken)	(Page, section, items in Vendor's proposal where exception is explained)	(Short description of exception being made)	
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			

## SECTION VI RFP QUESTIONNAIRE

Please answer each question or provide the information as requested in this section.

1. **Statewide Automated Accounting System (SAAS) Information for State of Mississippi Vendor File**

- 1.1 **SAAS Vendor Code:** Any Vendor who has not previously done business with the State and has not been assigned a SAAS Vendor code should furnish a signed copy of an IRS W-9 form with the proposal. A copy of the W-9 Form can be obtained at the following link on the **ITS** website:

<http://www.its.ms.gov/Procurement/Pages/Vendor.aspx>

Vendors who have previously done business with the State should furnish **ITS** with their SAAS Vendor code.

SAAS Vendor Code: \_\_\_\_\_ OR Signed W-9 Form Attached: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1.2 **Vendor Self-Certification Form:** The State of Mississippi, in an effort to capture participation by minority Vendors, asks that each Vendor review the State of Mississippi Minority Vendor Self Certification Form. This information is for tracking/reporting purposes only, and will not be used in determining which Vendor will be chosen for the project. Any Vendor who can claim status as a Minority Business Enterprise or a Woman Business Enterprise in accordance with the definitions on this form and who has not previously submitted a form to the State of Mississippi should submit the completed form with the proposal. A copy of the Minority Vendor Self-Certification Form can be \_\_\_\_\_ obtained \_\_\_\_\_ at: [http://www.mississippi.org/assets/docs/minority/minority\\_vendor\\_selfcertform.pdf](http://www.mississippi.org/assets/docs/minority/minority_vendor_selfcertform.pdf). Please direct any questions about minority certification in Mississippi to the Minority Business Enterprise Division of the Mississippi Development Authority by telephone at (601) 359-3448 or via email at [minority@mississippi.org](mailto:minority@mississippi.org).

Minority Vendor Self-Certification Form Included: \_\_\_\_\_  
Minority Vendor Self-Certification Form Previously Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Not claiming Minority/Women Business Enterprise Status: \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Certification of Authority to Sell**

The Vendor must certify Vendor is a seller in good standing, authorized to sell and able to deliver all items and related services proposed in the State of Mississippi in the time frame specified. Does the Vendor make these certifications? (A yes or no answer is required.)



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7. **Web Amendments**

As stated in Section III, **ITS** will use the **ITS** website to post amendments regarding RFPs before the proposal opening at:

[http://www.its.ms.gov/Procurement/Pages/RFPS\\_Awaiting.aspx](http://www.its.ms.gov/Procurement/Pages/RFPS_Awaiting.aspx)

**ITS** may post clarifications until noon seven days prior to the proposal opening date listed on the cover page of this RFP or the posted extension date, if applicable.

Vendors may list any questions or items needing clarification discovered in the week prior to the proposal opening in a written format at the beginning of the proposal binder or in the comment section for the individual offering.

Does the Vendor certify that they have reviewed a copy of the **ITS** amendments for RFPs as above stated? (A yes or no answer is required.)

## **SECTION VII TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

### **1. How to Respond to this Section**

- 1.1 Beginning with Item 2.1 of this section, label and respond to each outline point in this section as it is labeled in the RFP.
- 1.2 The Vendor must respond with "ACKNOWLEDGED," "WILL COMPLY" or "AGREED" to each point in this section. In addition, many items in this RFP require detailed and specific responses to provide the requested information. Failure to provide the information requested will result in the Vendor receiving a lower score for that item, or, at the State's sole discretion, being subject to disqualification.
- 1.3 "ACKNOWLEDGED" should be used when no vendor response or vendor compliance is required. "ACKNOWLEDGED" simply means the vendor is confirming to the State that he read the statement. This is commonly used in the RFP sections where the agency's current operating environment is described or where general information is being given about the project.
- 1.4 "WILL COMPLY" or "AGREED" are used interchangeably to indicate that the vendor will adhere to the requirement. These terms are used to respond to statements that specify that a vendor or vendor's proposed solution must comply with a specific item or must perform a certain task.
- 1.5 If the Vendor cannot respond with "ACKNOWLEDGED," "WILL COMPLY," or "AGREED," then the Vendor must respond with "EXCEPTION." (See Section V, for additional instructions regarding Vendor exceptions.)
- 1.6 Where an outline point asks a question or requests information, the Vendor must respond with the specific answer or information requested.
- 1.7 In addition to the above, Vendor must provide explicit details as to the manner and degree to which the proposal meets or exceeds each specification.

### **2. Mandatory Provisions or No Mandatory Provisions in Technical Requirements for this RFP**

- 2.1 Certain items in the technical specifications of this RFP are MANDATORY. Vendors are specifically disallowed from taking exception to these mandatory requirements, and proposals that do not meet all mandatory requirements are subject to immediate disqualification.
- 2.2 Mandatory requirements are those features classified as Mandatory in the Requirements in Section VII, Item 6: *Technical Specifications – Requirements*. "Meeting a mandatory requirement" means the Vendor is able

to respond “E” (exceeds specifications) or “X” (exists in base version of software package).

### 3. General Overview and Background

- 3.1 ITS and UMMC are requesting Microsoft Premier Support services. The services requested in this bid specification are for services through Microsoft Corporation for Premier Support Services only. Bidders must provide all information of the support services in their proposal.

### 4. Procurement Project Schedule

Task	Date
First Advertisement Date for RFP	06/03/14
Second Advertisement Date for RFP	06/10/14
Deadline for Vendor's Written Questions	3:00 p.m. Central Time on 06/13/14
Deadline for Questions Answered and Posted to ITS Web Site	06/17/14
Open Proposals	06/26/14
Evaluation of Proposals	06/26/14
Contract Negotiation	06/27/14-06/30/14
Project Go-Live Deadline	07/01/14

### 5. Statement of Understanding

- 5.1 Vendors may request additional information or clarifications to this RFP using the following procedure:
- 5.1.1 Vendors must clearly identify the specified paragraph(s) in the RFP that is in question.
- 5.1.2 Vendor must deliver a written document to Curtis Ritchey at ITS by Friday, June 13, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. Central Time. This document may be delivered by hand, mail, email, or fax. Address information is given on page one of this RFP. The fax number is (601) 713-6380. **ITS WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAYS IN THE DELIVERY OF QUESTION DOCUMENTS.** It is solely the responsibility of the vendor that the clarification document reaches **ITS** on time. Vendors may contact Curtis Ritchey to verify the receipt of their document. Documents received after the deadline will be rejected.
- 5.2 All questions will be compiled and answered, and a written document containing all questions submitted and corresponding answers will be posted on the **ITS** web site by close of business on Tuesday, June 17, 2014.



**6. Technical Requirements**

- 6.1 See Attachment A of this RFP for a Description of Support Services requested.
- 6.2 Mandatory - Vendor must sell genuine Microsoft Premier Support Services performed only by Microsoft Corp.
- 6.3 The State reserves the right to add or subtract products and services as needed.
- 6.4 The State anticipates that schedules will be signed each year and that the number of hours and types of services will vary by agency and year.
- 6.5 The State cannot guarantee a certain number of hours in any given year.
- 6.6 Vendors should base their response on the following sample schedule:

- Up to 150 hours Support Account Management
- Up to 150 hours Workshops, Support Assistance
- Up to 250 hours Problem Resolution Support
- Five (5) Onsite Services Resource Travel
- Third Tier Support for Exchange
- Third Tier Support for SharePoint
- Unlimited User Access to Premier Online Website

**7. Manufacturer Direct Support Services**

- 7.1 ITS understands that the support requested in this RFP may be provided directly by the manufacturer. If Vendor is the named manufacturer and will be supplying the support services directly, Items 7.1.4 through 7.1.13 do not have to be completed.
  - 7.1.1 Responding Vendor must clarify whether he is the named manufacturer and will be supplying the support services directly or whether he is a third party reseller selling the support services on behalf of the manufacturer.
  - 7.1.2 Responding Vendor must explain his understanding of when or whether the manufacturer will ever sell the support services directly and, if so, under what circumstances.
    - 7.1.2.1 If the responding Vendor to this RFP will only be reselling manufacturer's support services, it is ITS' understanding that this is basically a "pass through" process.
    - 7.1.2.2 Please provide a detailed explanation of the relationship of who will be providing the requested

support, to whom the purchase order is made, and to whom the remittance will be made. If there is a difference in the year one support purchase versus subsequent years of support, the responding Vendor must clarify and explain.

7.1.3      Manufacturer Support Services when sold directly through the manufacturer: Fixed Cost

7.1.3.1      If responding Vendor is the direct manufacturer, he must propose annual fixed pricing for three years of the requested support. Vendor must provide all details of the support and all associated costs.

7.1.3.2      It is ITS' preference that the Manufacturer's proposal is a not-to-exceed firm commitment. In the event that the manufacturer cannot commit to a fixed cost for the subsequent years of support after year one, Manufacturer must specify the annual support increase ceiling offered by his company on the proposed products. Vendor must state his policy regarding increasing support charges. Price escalations for support shall not exceed 5% increase per year.

7.1.4      Manufacturer Support Services when sold through 3<sup>rd</sup> Party: Fixed Cost-Plus Percentages

7.1.4.1      In the case of a third-party "pass-through" ITS realizes that the responding reseller may not be able to guarantee a fixed price for support after year one since his proposal is dependent on the manufacturer's pricing or possibly on a distributor's pricing.

7.1.4.2      It is ITS' preference that the responding reseller work with the manufacturer to obtain a commitment for a firm fixed price over the requested support period.

7.1.5      In the event that the responding reseller cannot make a firm fixed support proposal for all the years requested, the responding reseller is required to provide a fixed percentage for his mark-up on the manufacturer support services that he is selling as a third party reseller in lieu of a price ceiling based on a percentage yearly increase.

7.1.5.1      In this scenario, Resellers must include in the Pricing Spreadsheets the price the Vendor pays for the support and the percentage by which the final price to the State of Mississippi exceeds the Vendor's cost for the support (i.e. cost-plus percentage).

- 7.1.5.2 Alternatively, Resellers may propose a fixed percentage for their mark down on the manufacturer's support services based on a national benchmark from the manufacturer, such as GSA, Suggested Retail Price (SRP) or the manufacturer's web pricing. This national benchmark pricing must be verifiable by ITS during the support contract.
- 7.1.6 The cost-plus/minus percentage will be fixed for the term specified in the RFP. To clarify, the State's cost for the products will change over the life of the award if the price the Vendor must pay for a given product increases or decreases. However, the percentage over Vendor cost which determines the State's final price WILL NOT change over the life of the award.
- 7.1.7 ITS will use this cost plus/minus percentage in evaluating cost for scoring purposes.
- 7.1.8 The cost-plus/minus percentage applies to new products added in the categories covered by the Cost Matrix as well as the products that are listed.
- 7.1.9 Periodic Cost-Plus Verification - At any time during the term of this contract, the State reserves the right to request from the awarded Vendor, access to and/or a copy of the Manufacturer's Base Pricing Structure for pricing verification. This pricing shall be submitted within seven (7) business days after the State's request. Failure to submit this pricing will be cause for Contract Default.
- 7.1.9.1 Vendor Cost is defined as the Vendor's invoice cost from the distributor or manufacturer.
- 7.1.9.2 The Vendor's Proposed State Price is defined as the Vendor Cost plus the proposed percentage mark-up.
- 7.1.10 Vendor must also indicate how future pricing information will be provided to the State during the term of the contract.
- 7.1.11 Vendor must indicate from whom he buys the support: directly from the manufacturer or from what distributor.
- 7.1.12 Vendor must be aware that only price increases resulting from an increase in price by the manufacturer or distributor will be accepted. The Vendor's proposed percentage markup or markdown for these items, as well as the Vendor's percentage markup or markdown for any new items, MUST stay the same as what was originally proposed. Vendor must provide ITS with the suggested retail price.

- 7.1.13 Pricing proposed for the State MUST equal the Vendor's invoice cost from the distributor or manufacturer plus the maximum percentage markup that the reseller will add OR the manufacturer's national benchmark minus the cost percentage proposed.

## 8. **Additional Requirements**

- 8.1 ITS acknowledges that the specifications within this RFP are not exhaustive. Rather, they reflect the known requirements that must be met by the proposed system. Vendors must specify, here, what additional components may be needed and are proposed in order to complete each configuration.

## 9. **Scoring Methodology**

- 9.1 An Evaluation Team composed of University of Mississippi Medical Center and **ITS** staff will review and evaluate all proposals. All information provided by the Vendors, as well as any other information available to evaluation team, will be used to evaluate the proposals.
- 9.1.1 Each category included in the scoring mechanism is assigned a weight between one and 100.
- 9.1.2 The sum of all categories, other than Value-Add, equals 100 possible points.
- 9.1.3 Value-Add is defined as product(s) or service(s), exclusive of the stated functional and technical requirements and provided to the State at no additional charge, which, in the sole judgment of the State, provide both benefit and value to the State significant enough to distinguish the proposal and merit the award of additional points. A Value-Add rating between 0 and 5 may be assigned based on the assessment of the evaluation team. These points will be added to the total score.
- 9.1.4 For the evaluation of this RFP, the Evaluation Team will use the following categories and possible points:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
Total Non-Cost Points	0
Cost	100
Total Base Points	100
Value Add	5
<b>Maximum Possible Points</b>	<b>105</b>

- 9.2 The evaluation will be conducted in two stages as follows:

9.2.1 Stage 1 – Selection of Responsive/Valid Proposals – Each proposal will be reviewed to determine if it is sufficiently responsive to the RFP requirements to permit a complete evaluation. A responsive proposal must comply with the instructions stated in this RFP with regard to content, organization/format, Vendor experience, number of copies, bond requirement, timely delivery, and must be responsive to all mandatory requirements. No evaluation points will be awarded in this stage. Failure to submit a complete proposal may result in rejection of the proposal.

9.2.2 Stage 2 – Cost Evaluation

9.2.2.1 Points will be assigned using the following formula:

$$(1 - ((B - A) / A))^n$$

Where:

A = Total lifecycle cost of lowest valid proposal

B = Total lifecycle cost of proposal being scored

n = Maximum number of points allocated to cost for acquisition

9.2.2.2 Cost categories and maximum point values are as follows:

<b>Cost Category</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
Lifecycle Cost	100
<b>Maximum Possible Points</b>	<b>100</b>

## SECTION VIII COST INFORMATION SUBMISSION

Vendors must propose a summary of all applicable project costs in the matrix that follows. The matrix must be supplemented by a cost itemization fully detailing the basis of each cost category. The level of detail must address the following elements as applicable: item, description, quantity, retail, discount, extension, and deliverable. Any cost not listed in this section may result in the Vendor providing those products or services at no charge to the State or face disqualification.

<b>Mississippi ITS (Government Schedule)</b>		
<b>Services</b>	<b>Percent +/- Cost</b>	<b>Price</b>
Up to 150 hours Support Account Management		
Up to 150 hours Workshops, Support Assistance		
Up to 250 hours Problem Resolution Support		
Five (5) Onsite Services Resource Travel		
Third Tier Support for Exchange		
Third Tier Support for SharePoint		
Unlimited User Access to Premier Online Website		
<b>Total ITS</b>		

<b>UMMC (Education Schedule)</b>		
<b>Services</b>	<b>Percent +/- Cost</b>	<b>Price</b>
Up to 150 hours Support Account Management		
Up to 150 hours Workshops, Support Assistance		
Up to 250 hours Problem Resolution Support		
Five (5) Onsite Services Resource Travel		
Third Tier Support for Exchange		
Third Tier Support for SharePoint		
Unlimited User Access to Premier Online Website		
<b>Total UMMC</b>		

## ATTACHMENT A MICROSOFT PREMIER SUPPORT SERVICES DESCRIPTION

**1. OVERVIEW.** This Services Description describes the various types of services that may be obtained (the "Services"). In addition, it sets forth the parties' respective responsibilities, prerequisites and assumptions that underlie the provision of the Services, applicable fees, and additional terms and conditions. The Services focus on the following key areas:

**Support Account Management** from an assigned Microsoft resource ("Services Resource") helps to build and maintain relationships with Your management and service delivery staff and helps You arrange each element of the Premier Support to meet Your business requirements.

**Workshops** help You to prevent problems, increase system availability and assist with creating products and solutions based on Microsoft technologies.

**Problem Resolution Support** provides assistance for problems with specific symptoms encountered while using Microsoft products, where there is a reasonable expectation that the problem is caused by Microsoft products.

**Support Assistance** provides short-term advice and guidance for problems not covered with Problem Resolution Service as well as requests for consultative assistance for design, development and deployment issues.

**Information Services** provide Your staff with the latest knowledge on Microsoft technologies to enhance Your in-house support capabilities.

**2. AVAILABLE SERVICES.** You may utilize any combination of the following Services. Unless We specify otherwise, the Services are charged on an hourly basis and will be deducted from the total number of hours You have purchased as set forth in the attached Fee and Named Contacts Schedule(s). The complete list of Services below may not be available in all countries. For a detailed list of Services available outside the US, please contact Your Services Resource.

**2.1 Support Account Management.** Support Account Management services are intended to help coordinate the support and services relationship. The Services Resource is Your advocate within Microsoft and facilitates a team that can provide Workshops, Problem Resolution Support, and Support Assistance. The Services Resource also serves as the point of information delivery and provides Your feedback regarding the Services to other Microsoft groups. The Services Resource will engage with You in the following activities which will be deducted from the pre-paid hours listed in the "Premier Support Fees" section below:

- a. Planning and Resource Facilitation. At the commencement of this Service Description, an orientation and planning session can be conducted with Your management and staff via teleconference or onsite if an onsite visit has been purchased. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the Services available, gather input regarding Your support needs, and jointly plan Your use of the Services.
- b. Status Meetings and Reporting. A standard status report can be prepared on a regular basis, to summarize the Services delivered during the previous reporting period. Status meetings will be conducted to discuss Service activities, monitor Your satisfaction levels, and discuss actions or adjustments that may be required. Customized reporting can be provided at Your request and any additional related labor will be deducted from Your Support Assistance hours.
- c. Escalation Management. Support issues that require escalation to other resources within Microsoft can be closely managed by the Services Resource to expedite resolution.

**2.2 Workshops and Events.** The goal of Workshops and Events is to provide You proactive technical information to assist in the design, development or deployment of Microsoft technologies. ***All registration requirements for Workshops and Events must be completed by You 60 days prior to the expiration date of the applicable Fee and Named Contacts Schedule(s).*** Additional benefits may include instruction to help reduce the number and minimize the impact of problems related to Microsoft Products that You experience. Workshops and Events can include the following:

- a. Workshops. We can conduct instructor-led training sessions that emphasize Microsoft technologies at Your facility or on location at Microsoft. If You elect to have a Workshop conducted at Your facility, We will provide You with specifications for configuring Your environment prior to the delivery of the Workshops. Workshops are individually scoped and priced depending upon the length, delivery location and material presented. Your Services Resource can provide You with a current list of available Workshops.
- b. Events. We can provide broad and deep technical development-focused presentations, combined with hands-on labs that provide training and facilitate Your implementations of Microsoft technologies. These Events

provide the opportunity to interact with Microsoft product groups, Premier support development resources and marketing contacts. Your Services Resource can provide You with notification of scheduled Events.

**2.3 Problem Resolution Support.** Problem Resolution Support provides assistance for problems with specific symptoms encountered while using Microsoft products, where there is a reasonable expectation that the problems are caused by Microsoft products. Problem Resolution Support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Requests for support may be submitted via telephone or electronically through the Premier online website by Your designated contacts, except for Severity 1 and A which must be submitted via telephone as set forth below in Section 2.3(a). Problem Resolution Support can include any combination of the following:

- a. **Problem Request (Break-Fix).** An assisted break-fix support request, also known as an incident, is defined as a single support issue and the reasonable effort needed to resolve it. A single support issue is a problem that cannot be broken down into subordinate issues. If a problem consists of subordinate issues, each shall be considered a separate incident. Incidents requiring an onsite visit will be charged on an hourly basis and will include charges for reasonable travel and living expenses. In certain situations, We may provide You with a modification to the commercially available Microsoft product software code to address specific critical problems ("Hotfix(es)") in response to an assisted break-fix support request. Hotfixes are designed to address Your specific problems and are not regression tested. Except as otherwise provided herein or in an Exhibit, Hotfixes may not be distributed to unaffiliated third parties without Our express written consent.

Problem resolution support is charged on an hourly basis and includes the commercially reasonable amount of hours of Services necessary to troubleshoot and help resolve the support issue. Hours-based incidents are deducted from the pre-paid hours set forth in the attached Fee and Named Contacts Schedule(s) or charged to You in arrears if all pre-paid hours have been exhausted.

You are responsible for setting the initial severity level in consultation with Us and You can request a change in severity level at any time. The incident severity will determine the response levels within Microsoft and estimated response times and Your responsibilities are defined in the following table:

Severity	Situation	Our Expected Response	Your Expected Response
1 Submission via phone only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Catastrophic business impact:</li> <li>Complete loss of a core (mission critical) business process and work cannot reasonably continue</li> <li>Needs immediate attention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1<sup>st</sup> call response in 1 hour or less</li> <li>Our Resources at Your site as soon as possible.</li> <li>Continuous effort on a 24x7 basis</li> <li>Rapid Escalation within Microsoft to Product teams</li> <li>Notification of Our Senior Executives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notification of Your Senior executives</li> <li>Allocation of appropriate resources to sustain continuous effort on a 24x7 basis<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Rapid access and response from change control authority</li> </ul>
A Submission via phone only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Critical business impact:</li> <li>Significant loss or degradation of services</li> <li>Needs attention within 1 hour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1<sup>st</sup> call response in 1 hour or less</li> <li>Our Resources at Your site as required.</li> <li>Continuous effort on a 24x7 basis</li> <li>Notification of Our Senior Managers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allocation of appropriate resources to sustain continuous effort on a 24x7 basis<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Rapid access and response from change control authority</li> <li>Management notification</li> </ul>
B Submission via phone or web	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate business impact:</li> <li>Moderate loss or degradation of services but work can reasonably continue in an impaired manner.</li> <li>Needs attention within 2 Business Hours<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1<sup>st</sup> call response in 2 hours or less</li> <li>Effort during Business Hours<sup>1</sup> only</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allocation of appropriate resources to sustain Business Hours<sup>1</sup> continuous effort</li> <li>Access and response from change control authority within 4 Business Hours<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>
C Submission via phone or web	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum business impact:</li> <li>Substantially functioning with minor or no impediments of services.</li> <li>Needs attention within 4 Business Hours<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1<sup>st</sup> call response in 4 hours or less</li> <li>Effort during Business Hours<sup>1</sup> only</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accurate contact information on case owner</li> <li>Responsive within 24 hours.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Business Hours are defined as 6AM to 6PM Pacific Time, Monday through Friday excluding holidays.

<sup>2</sup> We may need to downgrade the severity level if You are not able to provide adequate resources or responses to enable Us to continue with problem resolution efforts.



You may be required to perform problem determination and resolution activities as requested by Us. Problem determination and resolution activities may include performing network traces, capturing error messages, collecting configuration information, changing product configurations, installing new versions of software or new components, or modifying processes.

You are responsible for implementing the procedures necessary to safeguard the integrity and security of Your software and data from unauthorized access and to reconstruct lost or altered files resulting from catastrophic failures.

- b. Rapid Onsite Support Services. You can request on-site support as an additional billable service. Our ability to provide onsite support is subject to Our resource availability, and the tasks performed will vary depending on the situation, environment, and business impact of the issue.
- c. Software Assurance Benefits. You may elect to convert Your Software Assurance 24x7 Problem Resolution Support Incidents (SA PRS Incidents) to Premier Problem Resolution Support (PPRS) hours or incidents for use consistent with Your Premier service plan at the time of transfer. This conversion is based on a local rate calculation that will be provided by your Services Resource. You may be required to purchase additional Support Account Management hours before converting SA PRS incidents/hours. All SA PRS Incidents You transfer are subject to this Services Description.

**2.4 Support Assistance.** Support Assistance provides short-term advice and guidance for problems not covered with Problem Resolution Support as well as requests for consultative assistance for design, development and deployment issues. Your Services Resource will work with You to determine Your specific Support Assistance needs.

The following are types of Support Assistance that can be utilized under this Services Description:

- a. Infrastructure Support Assistance. Infrastructure Support Assistance includes informal advice, guidance and knowledge transfer intended to help You implement Microsoft technologies in ways that avoid common support issues and decrease the likelihood of system outages.

These services also help You to resolve problems that are not attributed to Microsoft Products including:

- Errors caused by Your networking infrastructure, hardware, non-Microsoft software, operational procedures, architecture, IT service management process, system configuration or human error.
  - Multi-vendor coordination interoperability problems. Upon Your request, We will collaborate with third-party software suppliers to help resolve complex multi-vendor product interoperability issues.
- b. Reviews. A review is an assessment of a specific system, application or architecture to address design, development, deployment, and supportability issues for current or planned implementations of Microsoft technologies. Each review is individually scoped and estimated prior to scheduling resources, and a written report is produced to document findings and recommendations. ***All requests for reviews and the applicable data must be submitted to Us no later than 60 days prior to expiration date of the applicable Fee and Named Contacts Schedule(s).***
  - c. Development Support Assistance. Development Support Assistance helps You in Your creation and development of internal applications on the Microsoft platform that integrate Microsoft technologies. Development Support Assistance specializes in Microsoft development tools and technologies.
  - d. Lab Access. Microsoft can provide You with access to a lab facility to assist You with product development, benchmarking and testing, prototyping and migration activities on Microsoft products. These facilities must be scheduled in advance and are subject to availability.

**2.5 Information Services.** Information Services provide You with technical information about Microsoft products and support tools that help You to implement and operate Microsoft products in a more efficient and effective manner. Information Services can include any combination of the following:

- a. Premier online website. The Premier online website provides access to the following information resources at no additional charge:
  - Regularly updated product news flashes documenting key support and operational information about Microsoft products.
  - Critical problem alerts notifying You of potentially high-impact problems.
  - Web response tool for submitting and checking the status of support incidents.
  - Microsoft Knowledgebase of technical articles and troubleshooting tools and guides.

- b. Support Webcasts. Support webcasts are regularly scheduled webcast discussions led by Our program managers, developers and professionals covering key areas of Microsoft technology. These are provided at no additional charge and require high speed internet access to participate.

**2.6 Additional Services.** You may request changes or additions to this Services Description at any time. Additional Services that are available for purchase, and the specific terms and conditions applicable to those Services, may be set forth in this Services Description, an attached Exhibit and/or Fee and Named Contacts Schedule(s). Additional Services will be invoiced at the prevailing price at the time the Services are rendered or upon acceptance of an Exhibit and/or Fee and Named Contacts Schedule(s) referencing this Services Description. If you purchase additional Problem Resolution Support hours or convert Software Assurance hours to Problem Resolution Support hours, you may also be required to purchase additional Services Management hours. Prior to delivering additional Services, We must be in receipt of a purchase order, check or other acceptable form of payment.

**3. PREREQUISITES AND ASSUMPTIONS.** Our delivery of Services under this Services Description is based upon the following Prerequisites and Assumptions:

- a. All Services will be provided remotely to Your locations in the United States unless otherwise set forth in an Exhibit to this Services Description (see section 3(k) below). Where additional onsite visits are mutually agreed, and not pre-paid and defined on your Fee and Named Contacts Schedule, You will be billed for reasonable travel and living expenses in arrears. Alternatively, You agree that any travel related expenses incurred by Microsoft may be decremented from the Support Assistance hours if You so choose. You certify that You possess the authority for this approval and such conversion is in compliance with any applicable government procurement and audit rules or regulations.
- b. All Services will be provided in the English language unless otherwise agreed to by You and Us in writing or in an Exhibit to this Services Description.
- c. We will provide support for all United States versions of commercially released generally available Microsoft products unless otherwise set forth in an Exhibit to this Services Description or specifically excluded on the Premier online website. Support for those Microsoft products that have entered the Extended Support Phase, as defined on the Premier online website, will be charged on an hourly basis only. Non-security related Hotfix support is not available for Microsoft products that have entered the Extended Phase of support unless You have purchased such support in an Exhibit to this Services Description.
- d. Support for pre-release products is not provided except as otherwise provided in an attached Exhibit.
- e. **ALL SERVICES, INCLUDING ANY ADDITIONAL SERVICES PURCHASED DURING THE TERM OF FEE AND NAMED CONTACTS SCHEDULE(S) SHALL BE FORFEITED IF NOT UTILIZED DURING THE TERM OF THE APPLICABLE FEE AND NAMED CONTACTS SCHEDULE(S).**
- f. Support Assistance is dependent upon the availability of resources.
- g. We can access Your system via remote dial-in to analyze problems at Your request. Our personnel will access only those systems authorized by You. We may provide You with software to assist with problem diagnosis and/or resolution. Such software is Microsoft's property and must be returned to Us promptly upon request. In order to utilize remote dial-in assistance, You must provide Us with the appropriate access and necessary equipment.
- h. You must have access to the Internet in order to take advantage of Internet-based services.
- i. Additional Prerequisites and Assumption may be set forth in relevant Exhibits.
- j. When purchasing Problem Resolution Support, we will require a corresponding quantity of Support Account Management to facilitate delivery of your Problem Resolution Support. If you purchase additional Problem Resolution Support, Support Assistance, or if you convert Software Assurance hours to Problem Resolution Support hours or incidents, you may be required to purchase additional Support Account Management.
- k. Resource Site Visits (number of trips to Your location) are mutually agreed upon at acceptance of this Services Description and the total fixed price amount for these visits are included in Your Fee and Named Contacts Schedule.

1. **OVERVIEW.** The following Services are provided in addition to those set forth in the Services Description.

**THIRD TIER SUPPORT RESPONSIVE SERVICES.** The Third Tier Support team is comprised of specialists in defined product areas who will respond to Your Problem Resolution requests, for the technologies specified in the Fee and Named Contacts Schedule(s), between the hours of 6:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., PST, Monday through Friday excluding holidays. Problem Resolution requests submitted to the Third Tier Support team ("Third Tier Support requests") may require resources from standard product support professionals for resolution, although the Third Tier Support team retains primary responsibility for the Third Tier Support request. Third Tier Support requests are charged on an hourly basis and will be deducted from the prepaid Third Tier Support hours set forth in the Fee and Named Contacts Schedule(s).

2. **PREMIER THIRD TIER SUPPORT PREREQUISITES AND ASSUMPTIONS.** In addition to those prerequisites and assumptions outlined in Section 3 of Your Services Description, Our delivery of the Services outlined in this Exhibit are based upon the following Prerequisites and Assumptions:

- a. The Third Tier Support Team will only provide support for the predefined set of Microsoft technologies defined in the Fee and Named Contacts Schedule(s).